



# NEWS RELEASE

Office of the United States Attorney  
Eastern District of Texas

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **ORANGE COUNTY MAN GUILTY OF GUN CRIMES**

(Beaumont, TX) A 48-year-old Orange County man has been convicted of illegally possessing stolen firearms in the Eastern District of Texas. A federal jury convicted **MICHAEL RAY HARRISON** late yesterday afternoon of being a Felon in Possession of Firearms after a two day trial before U.S. District Judge Marcia Crone.

**U.S. Attorney Matthew D. Orwig said gun crime is a serious problem, "Two-thirds of all gun crimes are committed by repeat offenders--criminals who have skirted the courts and flaunted the law to prey on citizens and communities again and again. By targeting illegal use of guns by criminals, we can make a real difference in making our communities safer."**

According to information presented in court, a Lumberton residence was burglarized on the afternoon of May 5, 2005. Firearms stolen during the burglary were recovered after a high speed car chase in Orange County on the evening of May 5, but the suspect eluded authorities after the car was abandoned in a wooded area off Highway 12. Harrison was later located and arrested at a Nederland residence.

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Harrison Verdict

A federal grand jury indicted Harrison on May 18, 2005 on charges of Felon in Possession of a Firearm. Harrison, a convicted felon, has three prior felony convictions. He was convicted in 1981 in Louisiana for bank robbery, in 1992 in Jefferson County for aggravated assault on a peace officer, and in 2000 in Jefferson County for aggravated assault with serious bodily injury. Because Harrison had at least three prior felony convictions for either a crime of violence or a serious drug offense, he will be sentenced in accordance with the federal Armed Career Criminal Statute, which provides for a minimum of 15 years to life in prison. A sentencing date has not yet been set.

Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) is a comprehensive strategic approach to reducing gun violence in America by promoting partnerships among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies.

The case is being investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the Texas Department of Public Safety Criminal Investigations Division, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, and the canine unit of the Beaumont Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Rawls and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Sarah Wannarka.

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